

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 21, 41 and 54 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An information management apparatus for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:
 - a storage unit, adapted for storing data indicating information on the device, the stored data being not dependent on a machine kind of the device;
 - an acquisition unit, adapted for acquiring the data from said storage unit when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon the machine kind of the device, and acquiring the data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, wherein the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device and indicates information on the option equipment which is attached at the device; and
 - a transmission control unit, adapted for transmitting the data acquired by said acquisition unit to the external apparatus,wherein the data stored in said storage unit of said information management apparatus is not acquired from the device.

2. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the data is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, said acquisition unit transmits a request of data to the device, and receives the data from the device.

3. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a judgment unit, adapted to transmit data in response to a request from said external apparatus, and to judge, on the basis of data identification information, included in the request, as to whether the requested data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in the device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment unit, said acquisition unit acquires the data from said storage unit in said information management apparatus or the storage unit in the device.

4. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the data identification information is a path name, and

wherein said judgment unit judges, on the basis of a directory part included in the path name, as to whether the requested data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in the device.

5. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a judgment unit adapted to judge, on the basis of a list indicating the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device, as to whether the data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in said storage unit in the device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment unit, said acquisition unit acquires the data from said storage unit in said information management apparatus or said storage unit in the device.

6. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the identification information is URL-inscribed.

7. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data is transmitted to said external apparatus, based on HTTP.

8. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a network board is attached to the device.

9. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data is requested from said external apparatus, based on document data for display for displaying information on the device by a browser.

10. (Previously presented) The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device is a laser beam printer.

11. to 16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) An information management apparatus for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:
an acquisition unit, adapted to acquire an equipment construction of the device from the device; and

a control unit, adapted to control so that a notation for acquiring from said information management apparatus data indicating the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition unit and displaying the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition means at the external apparatus may be included in the document data if the acquired equipment construction meets a condition corresponding to the notation and the document data with the notation may be transmitted to the external apparatus,

wherein the notation is described in a predetermined language, and if the equipment construction does not meet the condition corresponding to the notation, the notation is not included in the document data and the document data without the notation is transmitted to the external apparatus.

18. (Withdrawn) The information management apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the equipment construction concerns a paper feed apparatus attached, and

wherein, in accordance with the attached paper feed apparatus, a syntax for displaying information on the paper feed apparatus is included in the document data.

19. and 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) An information management method for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:
an acquisition step of acquiring the data from a storage unit in an information management apparatus connected to the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon a machine kind of the device, and acquiring the data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, wherein the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device and indicates information on the option equipment which is attached at the device; and

a transmission control step of transmitting so that the data acquired in said acquisition step to the external apparatus,

wherein the data stored in the storage unit of the information management apparatus is not acquired from the device.

22. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 21, wherein, when said data is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, the acquisition step transmits a request of data to the device, and receives the data from the device.

23. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a judgment step of transmitting data in response to a request from said external apparatus, and judging, on the basis of data identification information, included in the request, as to whether the requested data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in the device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires the data from said storage unit in said information management apparatus or the storage unit in the device.

24. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 23, wherein the data identification information is a path name, and

wherein said judgment step judges, on the basis of a directory part included in the path name, as to whether the requested data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in the device.

25. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a judgment step of judging, on the basis of a list indicating the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device, as to whether the data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in said storage unit in the device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires the data from said storage unit in said information management apparatus or said storage unit in the device.

26. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 23, wherein the identification information is URL-inscribed.

27. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 21, wherein the data is transmitted to said external apparatus, based on HTTP.

28. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 21, wherein said information management method is executed on a network board attached to the device.

29. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 21, wherein the data is requested from said external apparatus, based on document data for display for displaying information on the device by a browser.

30. (Previously presented) The information management method according to claim 21, wherein the device is a laser beam printer.

31. to 36. (Canceled)

37. (Withdrawn) An information management method for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment construction of the device from the device; and

a control step of controlling so that a notation for acquiring from said information management step data indicating the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step and displaying the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step at the external apparatus may be included in the document data if the acquired equipment construction meets a condition corresponding to the notation and the document data with the notation may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

38. (Withdrawn) The information management method according to claim 37, wherein the equipment construction concerns a paper feed apparatus attached, and

wherein, in accordance with the attached paper feed apparatus, a syntax for displaying information on the paper feed apparatus is included in the document data.

39. and 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) A computer-readable memory medium in which a program for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus is stored, said program causing a computer to execute:

an acquisition step of acquiring the data from a storage unit in an information management apparatus connected to the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon a machine kind of the device, and acquiring the data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, wherein the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device and indicates information on the option equipment which is attached at the device; and

a transmission control step of transmitting the data acquired in said acquisition step to the external apparatus,

wherein the data stored in the storage unit of the information management apparatus is not acquired from the device.

42. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 41, wherein, when said data is dependent upon the machine kind of the device, the acquisition step transmits a request of data to the device, and receives the data from the device.

43. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 41, said program causing the computer to further execute:

a judgment step of transmitting data in response to a request from said external apparatus, and judging, on the basis of data identification information, included in the request, as to whether the requested data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in the device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires the data from said storage unit in said information management apparatus or the storage unit in the device.

44. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 43, wherein the data identification information is a path name, and

wherein said judgment step judges, on the basis of a directory part included in the path name, as to whether the requested data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in the device.

45. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 41, said program causing the computer to further execute:

a judgment step of judging, on the basis of a list indicating the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon the machine kind of the device, as to whether the data is stored in said storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in said storage unit in the device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires the data from said storage unit in said information management apparatus or said storage unit in the device.

46. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 43, wherein the identification information is URL-inscribed.

47. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 41, wherein the data is transmitted to said external apparatus, based on HTTP.

48. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 41, wherein said information management method is executed on a network board attached to the device.

49. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 41, wherein the data is requested from said external apparatus, based on document data for display for displaying information on the device by a browser.

50. (Previously presented) The memory medium according to claim 41, wherein the device is a laser beam printer.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable memory medium in which a program for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus is stored, said program causing a computer to execute:

an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment construction of the device from the device; and

a control step of controlling so that a notation for acquiring from said information management step data indicating the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step and displaying the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step at the external apparatus may be included in the document data if the acquired equipment construction meets a condition corresponding to the notation and the document data with the notation may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently amended) An information management program, stored on a computer-readable medium, for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

a storing step of storing data indicating information on the device, the stored data being not dependent on a machine kind of the device;

an acquisition step of acquiring the data from said storage unit when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is not dependent upon the machine kind of the device, and acquiring the data indicating information on the device from a storage unit in the device when the data to be transmitted to the external apparatus is dependent upon

the machine kind of the device, wherein the data dependent upon the machine kind of the device changes in accordance with an attachment condition of option equipment at the device and indicates information on the option equipment which is attached at the device and

a transmission control step of transmitting the data acquired in said acquisition step to the external apparatus,

wherein the data stored by said storing step in said storage unit of said information management apparatus is not acquired from the device.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Withdrawn) An information management program for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment construction of the device from the device; and

a control step of controlling so that a notation for acquiring from said information management step data indicating the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step and displaying the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step at the external apparatus may be included in the document data if the acquired equipment construction meets a condition corresponding to the notation and the document data with the notation may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

57. (Canceled)